Usefulness of National Identity Cards

832. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:
SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item "Mother of I-Cards: 5000 crore", appeared in the Indian Express dated the 13th January, 2003; if so, what are the details in this regard;

(b) whether Government have made any indepth study about its usefulness and implementation;

(c) whether this exercise of spending Rs. 5,000 crore for new Multipurpose National Identity Card (MNIC) worth when we have already spen enough for electoral identity card; and

(d) what purpose will be served when there exists an identity card?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D.SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) At present, only a Pilot Project is being undertaken by the Government in a few selected sub-disricts of various districts of 13 States, which will cost approximately Rs. 18 crores. Since the Electoral identity cards issued by the Election Commission of India is not a universal system of identification based on compulsory registration of Indian citizens, the proposal of issue of Multipurpose National Identity Cards to the Indian citizens cannot be linked with it.

(d) Multipurpose National Identity Cards, apart from providing a credible individual identification system, would also have multifarious socio-economic uses.

Banning of Gelatine

833. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gelatine is used by naxalites in landmines and claymore mines to attack patrols;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government in this regard;

(c) whether the State Governments have also urged Union Government to provide support to the police operations by allocation of more funds, equipments, training and expertise; and

(d) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry has initiated steps to phase out production of Nitro-Glycerin based explosives.

(c) and (d) Keeping in view the overall dimensions of left wing activities in some States, a high level Coordination Centre headed by the Union Home Secretary regularly reviews and monitors the situation in the affected States. The Government also provides financial support under the Scheme of Modernization of State Police Forces and reimbursement of Security Related Expenditure (SRE) to the States to combat naxalism. Central Para-Military Forces, as and when required by the naxalite affected States are also deployed.

Cases Filed Under POTA

834. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
PROF. M.M. AGARWAL:
SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of the cases filed under 'POTA' in various States of the country during the last one year so far;

(b) the number of persons arrested and chargesheeted and convicted under the said Act; and

(c) the details of the persons arrested and released or released on bail during the said period under the said law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PAHAK): (a) to (c) Since law and order is a State subject, implementation of the provisoins of the POTA, 2002 is primarily the